

# BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

VOLUME III.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1887.

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## THE NORMAL SCHOOL.

### In Splendor it Shall Rise.

#### AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF GREAT BEND.

They decide to build a Normal College—\$23,000 already subscribed, and the amount will soon reach \$50,000.

#### No Such Word as Fail.

Notwithstanding the rain last night the court house was packed at an early hour with enthusiastic citizens who had assembled for the purpose of taking some steps in regard to founding a Normal College at this place. Owing to the rain there were but few ladies out, but they are taking a lively interest in the matter.

D. N. Heizer called the meeting to order, and nominated Mayor A. J. Buckland for permanent chairman of the meeting. The motion being put was unanimously carried. Mayor Buckland on taking the chair made a short speech setting forth the wonderful advance made by the city in the last two years. On motion and second C. W. Murphy was elected secretary. The chairman then called on Mr. Heizer to explain the object of the meeting.

Mr. Heizer took the floor and made a short speech setting forth the object of the meeting. He explained by what method it was proposed to raise this money. The plan was similar to that adopted to build the College. Mr. Heizer read and fully explained the agreement. He also took occasion to say that he had seen W. F. White, of the A., T. & S. F. railroad, and he (White) had assured him that when Great Bend wanted an excursion we could have as many cars as we needed.

After this the meeting was addressed by the Rev. Bosworth and a number of other gentlemen. The tenor of all the speeches made was that Great Bend should go ahead in this matter and to build the Normal.

It was moved and seconded that the chair appoint a committee of three to solicit subscription from the audience. This was carried and the chair appointed Rev. Bosworth, Messrs. Heizer and Langford as such committee. The committee in a few minutes reported that the amount raised was something over \$3,000, which makes the total sum subscribed at present \$23,000.

It was moved and carried that the chair appoint a committee of three to solicit subscription from the people generally. The chair then announced that the same committee would be continued. It was also moved and carried that three ladies be added to the committee. The chair named the following ladies: Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Dr. McCormack and Mrs. Bell.

Mr. Heizer then introduced the following resolution which was carried with great enthusiasm: "Resolved, that it is hereby publicly declared that the Great Bend Normal school shall be a success." After which a motion to adjourn prevailed and the people separated after a very harmonious meeting.

#### Mad Dogs.

I have had my dog killed for the reason we believed him mad. While it may not be a case of genuine hydrophobia, the indications are such as to cause the greatest of caution, as he has been fighting several other dogs. The old dog owned by Gainsfords was effected in the same way and died in a fit a week ago. But as he was so old, we did not think much of it at the time; but think, now, that he bit our dog, as they had been fighting. The authorities should take immediate action to prevent any serious accidents. W. L. BOLINGER.

Hon. Wm. E. Fuller, member of congress from the fourth Iowa district, came into the city last Saturday evening, and is the guest of his kinsman, D. N. Heizer. He is highly pleased with Great Bend and its prospects, and will make some investments before returning.

The revenue derived by the Johnson City World from land office notices is over \$250 a month.

The Wichita papers are still full of the sewerage question. This is a knotty question to be considered, and one that is liable to be so for some time to come in Wichita.

While real estate is not so lively in most Kansas towns as it was six weeks ago, yet the boom is undiminished. The fact is, when the farming season comes, the Kansan goes to work and nothing will induce him to sell out his homestead. This of course has decreased the sale of farms. As to town lots, they are still active.

The latest arrival to our sanctum table is the McCracken Enterprise. It is one of the most creditable country papers in this part of the state, and deserves to succeed. Mr. Newton we know personally; and we can testify that he is a good newspaper man. Most of our readers will remember that he was proprietor of the Pawnee Rock Leader.

HEREAFTER the editorial sanctum of the GRAPHIC and also the DEMOCRAT will be upstairs in the Opera House block. Persons having business with that department, can call up there. But the business department of both papers will still be in the basement where all persons having business with either office in regard to ads., subscription, etc., should call. This move was made necessary by the crowded condition of our office down stairs.

THERE will always be found in every community some prophets of evil—some who prefer to look at the gloomy, rather than the bright side. Only a week or two since this school of prophets were predicting that Kansas was surely to be visited by a dronth this year. But the rain came, and our people were made glad. Now since there is no further fear of dronth, these men are declaring that Kansas is growing at a pace too rapid for permanency. But in this they are as far wrong as in their first predictions.

THE rains of late have almost insured bountiful crops in western and central Kansas this year. In fact there was never a more confident and cheerful people than those inhabiting the country from here to the eastern line of Colorado. Their faith in the country, in its possibilities, is unbounded. The fear that what in our western parlance is called a "boom" will die is not well founded. The prospects of western Kansas are brighter to-day than ever before—the army of immigrants is larger than ever before—the towns are building as never before. We assure our friends in the east that this boom is no transient affair, but will continue until every foot of these fertile plains is under cultivation.

It must afford the Republican leaders the most exquisite pain when they contemplate the present prosperity of a country under a Democratic administration. It is fresh in the memory of every voter in this country that they foretold the most direful consequences in case Cleveland was elected in '84. But Cleveland was elected and we are having a general prosperity that is as surprising as it is gratifying. The Democratic party does not propose to follow the lead of the Republicans and try to rob the Deity of the credit of seasonable years and a fertile soil. But we do propose to say that the finances of this country have been managed with a consummate skill and unimpeachable integrity since Mr. Cleveland was installed. We are firmly persuaded that the Republican leaders were never doubtful of Mr. Cleveland or his ability, and the result shows that they were only trying to dupe their more ignorant followers. How long will the rank and file of that party be led by men who will thus deliberately concoct and preach what they know is false? We read the signs amiss if the Kansas republicans are to be duped in '88 as they were in '84. We are not prepared to say that Cleveland will be our next candidate; but whether he is or is not, the Democratic party will be in the future as in the past, committed to the principle of governmental reform. No rebel war debts have been paid as predicted, and the Republican prophets, who were loud in proclaiming that such would be the policy of a Democratic administration, are put to shame. Since the Civil war, we have had no administration that has given such universal satisfaction as the present, and we are forward to predict that American people will reward the party that has been true to its pledges.

## ATCHISON AIR LINE.

The Santa Fe Engineers Enter The Field.

The Proposed new Main Line From Topeka to Denver—Vast Quantities of Construction Materials on Hand—Preparing to Build Extensions on the Coast.

One week ago yesterday several parties of civil engineers arrived in this city from the southwestern part of the state, where they had been for some time engaged in running lines for the Santa Fe. They remained for a few days resting and awaiting orders and on Thursday were again sent into the field.

A Commonwealth reporter interviewed one of the members while here and was informed that this time they go out to make a preliminary survey for what is eventually to be the main line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe road, one party beginning at Topeka and working west, the other starting near Marion. According to the engineer's story, the Santa Fe is about to begin active work on the construction of a shorter line to Denver, the route to be followed taking in Eskridge, Council Grove, Marion, McPherson, Great Bend, Rush Center, Ness City, Dighton, Scott City and Horace, Greeley county. The line would thus pass through the counties of Shawnee, Wabunsee, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Rice, Barton, Rush, Ness, Lane, Scott, Wichita and Greeley.

An examination of the map will show that a road built through the points named would be very nearly an air line between the eastern terminus of the Santa Fe, Atchison, and the capital of Colorado. It would be an air line from Atchison to Marion and from Marion to Denver. The object is, apparently, to shorten distances and save time, to cut off the zig-zags and meanderings of the old main line and to enable the company to still more successfully compete with its many would-be rivals. To be sure it would parallel its own road from Marion to Ness City, but that would amount to little in view of the end sought.

The engineer stated further that an enormous amount of material had been massed along the line at various places and especially between Great Bend and Rush Center, where he says there are ties enough piled up to build a road clear through to Denver. He seemed positive in the belief that the mission upon which the parties were set out from Topeka on Thursday was the accomplishment of this object, and in view of the schemes now being actively prosecuted by the dozen or more companies in Kansas, it is possible that he is right. At all events, it is certain that the old reliable Kansas line, which has held its own for so long, will not submit to being outdone by any other road that invades or disputes its territory.—Commonwealth.

WHEN the people of Great Bend are fully aroused to the importance of a subject, no people are more harmonious or persevering. They will subscribe money, they will donate their time, they will spare no exertion in order to further anything that they are fully convinced will benefit the town. But they must first be convinced that the enterprise will benefit the town. We are now working to establish an institution that will be a most important factor in our future growth, namely, a normal school. In order to make it a success we must have the hearty co-operation of every citizen. But the people should understand the whole matter and the good that will result from it. It is therefore incumbent on every patriotic citizen to resolve himself into a committee of one and set to work to make the plans and provisions of this enterprise clearly understood. This will greatly facilitate the work of the soliciting committee and thereby enable them to make an early report.

TOPEKA is again bewailing her fate. This time the grievance is that their associate press agent does not manage to send out their bank clearances, as Murdock of Wichita does for the latter city. We see no way out of the trouble only by transplanting Murdock from Wichita.

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